

February 2023 Newsletter

News

Open Government Data Initiative in the State of Qatar: Aspirations and the Current Situation Survey of Qataris and White Collar Expatriates

In efforts to support the open government data Initiative in Qatar, and to present to the government unbiased academic data, Dr. Ali Al-Kubaisi, assistant research professor at SESRI led this study in which fieldwork has begun. The study aims to evaluate the level of public awareness of the availability of open government data and the benefits gained by utilizing them at a macro level, in addition to assessing the current situation of usage of open government data by Qataris and white-collar expatriates. The study also aims to gauge the level of openness and the transparency in the country and to further identify the needed sectors/ areas of further openness based on public demands and priorities (such as number of car accidents in major roads, success rates of public schools, operation success rates in public hospitals, etc.).



Meeting of the Supreme Committee for Agricultural Census

A periodic meeting of the Supreme Committee for Agricultural Census was held at the SESRI. The meeting was attended by Sheikh Faleh bin Nasser bin Jassim Al Thani, Assistant Undersecretary and chairman of the committee, Dr. Masoud Al Marri, Director of the Food Security Department, Eng. Abdulaziz Al Zeyara, Director of the Livestock Department, Mr. Adel Al-Yafei, Assistant Director of Agriculture Department of the Ministry of Municipality, Mr. Saud Matar AlShammari from the Planning and Statistics Authority, and the rest of the research team from Qatar University. During this meeting, the executive report of the cost and productivity survey for the census was approved, and reports were viewed regarding the progress of the project's activities in its remaining period.



Workshops

GLS Tad Workshops: Writing Scientific Paper Based On Survey Data

Dr Sana Abusin participated in a Graduate Learning Support (GLS) Workshop under the title "writing scientific papers based on survey data". In this round of workshop, Dr Sana explained how to write empirical paper using Qatar Semi Annual Survey 17 (QSAS 17) section entitled factors impacting educational sustainability. This section investigated the public opinions about their knowledge and evaluation of academic fraud specifically forging masters and doctoral degrees, which is recently gaining more attention by policy makers and researcher in gulf region. The main goal of Education for Sustainable Development is to promote education sustainability for future generations. The State of Qatar's strategy aims to diversify its economy, and aims to simultaneously develop a knowledge-based economy and promote education among its people. However, developing a knowledge-based economy faced some challenges, mainly academic fraud.

Based on the QSAS 17, Dr Sana shows how to write empirical paper from this data starting from title of the paper, abstract, introduction, material and method, results reporting and discussion and end by conclusion and policy implication to deter academic fraud.

Results of the Institute's Latest Research:

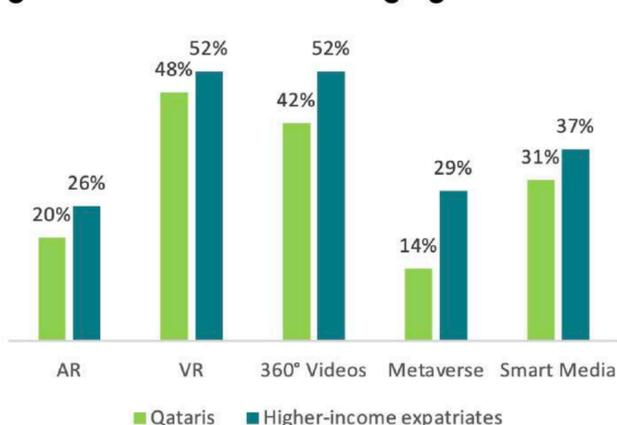
NPRP Project Titled "Assessing Qatari Emerging Media Engagement"

SESRI conducted an NPRP study entitled "Assessing Qatari Emerging Media Engagement" led by Dr. Noora Lari, Manager of Policy Department. The data were collected between December 2022 - January 2023 using the Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) mode. Emerging media, which include virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and other technologies such as 360° videos, Metaverse and Smart Media, are playing an increasing role in the Gulf region. In this study, 688 Qataris and higher-income expatriates citizens completed the survey assessing their awareness, interest in and use of emerging media technologies.

Summary of Key Findings:

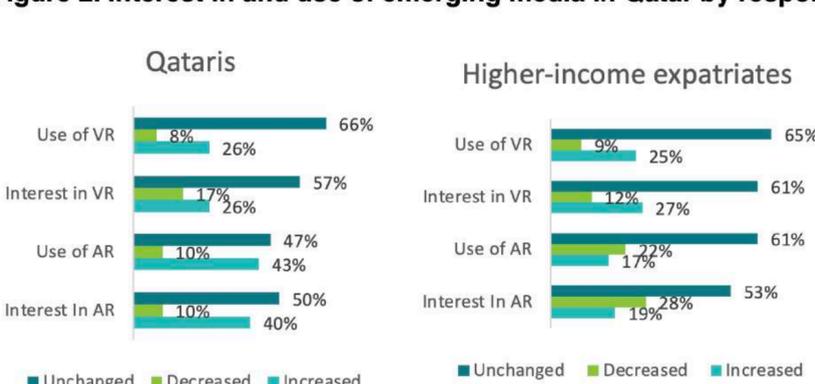
- 1. Awareness of emerging media:** The respondents were asked whether they have heard about several emerging media technologies. The results indicate that the most popular technologies among both Qataris and higher-income expatriates are the VR and 360° videos. Higher-income expatriates reported a higher awareness of AR, VR, 360° videos, Metaverse and Smart Media than Qataris (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Awareness of emerging media in Qatar by respondent type



- 2. Interest in and use of emerging media:** Aiming to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the engagement with emerging media, the respondents were surveyed on their interest in AR and VR, as well as the usage of these two technologies, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Qatar. The results show that the interest and usage of AR and VR among nationals and residents of Qatar mainly remained unchanged (Figure 2). Strikingly, although just 20% of Qataris reported being aware of AR technologies (Figure 1), when asked about the interest and usage, 40% reported that their interest increased and 43% increased their use of AR since the onset of the pandemic (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Interest in and use of emerging media in Qatar by respondent type



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Publications

NPRP Project Titled "Assessing Qatari Emerging Media Engagement"

Research Assistant at the Policy Department at SESRI Amal Ali and others published a paper titled "Design and Field Procedures for the Clinical Reappraisal of the Composite International Diagnostic Interview Version 3.3 in Qatar's National Mental Health Study". International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research.

Background

The Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI) has been clinically reappraised in several studies conducted mainly in the US and Europe. This report describes the methodology used to conduct one of the Middle East's largest clinical reappraisal studies. The study was carried out in conjunction with the World Mental Health Qatar—the first national psychiatric epidemiological study of common mental disorders in the country. This study aimed to evaluate the diagnostic consistency of core modules of the newly translated and adapted Arabic version of the CIDI 5.0 against the independent clinical diagnoses based on the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-5 (SCID-5).

Methods

Telephone follow-up interviews were administered by trained clinicians using the latest research edition of the SCID for DSM-5. Telephone administered interviews were key in the data collection, as the study took place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Results

Overall, within 12 months, 485 interviews were completed. The response rate was 52%. Quality control monitoring documented excellent adherence of clinical interviews to the rating protocol.

Conclusions

The overall methods used in this study proved to be efficient and effective. For future research, instrument cultural adaptation within the cultural context is highly recommended.

The study can be accessed through this link:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/mpr.1958>

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